

MESSAGE FROM ILLINOIS DNR DIRECTOR MARC MILLER  
November 28, 2012

Dear DNR colleagues:

Today is an inflection point in the history of IDNR. As you probably know by now, after three years of hard work, our DNR "Sustainability Bill" – SB1566 – has passed the Senate on its final vote by 39-11. It is now headed to the Governor's desk, and I was very pleased to receive a congratulatory call from the Governor shortly after the vote. He remains committed to the agency's mission and improving our condition from years of cuts.

This is a big victory for conservation in Illinois, and a stronger DNR means a stronger economy for all the communities that benefit from DNR services. Passage of this bill to stabilize our funding with a projected impact of \$32 million new dollars is only the first of several critical steps to help modernize this agency. This step will allow us to hire critical staff to maintain state parks, fix aging infrastructure, speed up regulatory functions and make a bigger difference in the lives of everyone we serve.

I commend State Representative Frank Mautino and State Senator Toi Hutchinson for their leadership and hard work leading up to today's vote, and those members of Illinois' General Assembly who supported the bill. I also must recognize Jay Curtis for his vision and leadership, to the rest of our executive team for their outstanding performance, and to you for your continued dedication to the agency and its mission. Without it, none of this would be possible. We should also be encouraged by the outpouring of support from our constituent groups who also worked for the bill's passage.

The next step is to put the finishing touches on the administrative rules that are needed to collect revenues and pass them through the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). While this will not be an immediate influx of funds, we think that within 9-12 months the agency will begin seeing the revenues. This is an exciting time for DNR and I look forward to working with you to quickly put the new revenues toward their intended purpose.

Yours in Conservation,  
Marc Miller